REMARKS

Claims 26 through 35 remain pending in the present application. Claims 26 and 31 have been amended. Basis for the amendments can be found throughout the specification, drawings and claims as originally filed.

The undersigned attorney would like to thank Examiners Nguyen and Walker for the courtesies extended to him during the personal interview on February 4, 2003. At the interview, an agreement was reached.

During the interview, above Claim 26 was presented. The Examiners conceded that above Claim 26 overcame the art of record.

As was pointed out at the interview, the Weisner et al patent relied on by the Examiner illustrated a frame that was constantly heated during the forming process. The heated frame formed the outer mold of the Weisner device. Thus, as claimed, Weisner fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe all pending claims to be in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass the case to issue at her earliest possible convenience. Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, she should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 24, 2003

By _____
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ATTACHMENT FOR TITLE AMENDMENT

The following is a marked up version of the Title replacement in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

Please delete the present title and substitute therefor METHOD [AND APPARATUS] FOR FORMING HIGH-IMPACT, TRANSPARENT, DISTORTION-FREE POLYMERIC MATERIAL.

ATTACHMENT FOR CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The following is a marked up version of each amended claim in which underlines indicates insertions and brackets indicate deletions.

26. (Amended) A method for forming a sheet of polymeric material, comprising the steps of:

heating the sheet to a first temperature wherein the sheet is heated past a glass transition temperature and said sheet achieves a glass transition state;

terminating heating of said sheet prior to placing in first and second mold halves;

retaining the sheet between first and second mold halves of a forming mold with the sheet supported along a peripheral edge of one of said first and second mold halves;

generating a vacuum on one side of the sheet thereby drawing the sheet into an interior space of one of said first and second mold halves while a center portion of the sheet remains supported in space relationship to said first and second mold halves; and

cooling the sheet from said first temperature to a second temperature upon achieving a specified draw depth of the sheet within one of said first and second mold halves.

31. (Amended) A [forming apparatus] method for forming a sheet of polymeric material as set forth in claim 29, wherein said trimming of said perimeter is achieved using a series of blades disposed about a perimeter of one of said first and second halves, wherein each of said blades includes an angled cutting edge thereby providing a series of progressive trimming sections along said perimeter.